

ART. IX.—*Speculations of the Zodiacal Light*, a paper by MR. T. E. RAWLINSON, of Belfast, was read 25th June, 1868.

ART. X.—*On Colonial Gems.* By REV. J. J. BLEASDALE, D.D.

[Read 25th June, 1868.]

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

I need scarcely remind you that already on several occasions I have brought under the notice of this learned society the results of my studies of Victorian, and other Australian gem-stones. To night I propose to resume the subject, and bring my lists a step or two nearer to completion. I am happy to say that I have quite a number of new and interesting matters to show you. They are new and interesting, both as regards several of their varieties and the district where they have been obtained.

I have no exact knowledge of the locality whence they came, that is to say, not within a few miles, but most of you may be aware that prospecting for ores of tin has been going on in the creeks, about Berwick for some time—and it seems most likely that some of the prospectors dropped upon the spot which yielded them.

In my former reports I have mentioned that a Victorian ruby had never been met with by myself. I wondered at it, the more so as Barklyite (an opaque ruby-red corundum) is found at Beechworth, and Mr. Ulrich had assured me he had seen one. The Rev. Mr. Clarke, of Sydney, showed me a large quantity obtained by himself, when examining the granite formations near Armidale, in New South Wales. I had also seen and examined one or two reported to have been brought from New Zealand. To night, however, I shall be able to settle the question of their occurrence in Victoria, beyond a doubt.

These of my present notice, specimens of which I lay before you, were most kindly placed in my hands by my friend, Mr. Crisp, of Queen-street. He got them from Mr. Henty, who really owns them, and in the vicinity of whose station, below Dandenong, they were found. They are interesting from many points of consideration. The first blue sapphire ever found in Victoria was got by Mr. Crisp